

# Santa Cruz River Bingo!



## Directions:

1. Click on the links below and print copies for every person playing of both the Santa Cruz River Bingo Board and the Santa Cruz River Critters sheet.
2. Each player carefully cuts out the Santa Cruz River Critters and mix up the 24 different pictures.
3. Each person pastes the animal squares onto their blank Santa Cruz River Bingo Board in whatever way they wish, making their own board different from the other players.
4. Print one copy of each of the four pages of Species Cards and cut along the dark black lines to make a set of the 24 animals . Put all the cards into a hat and mix them up.
5. Play as you would regular bingo, using bingo chips, beans, etc. or other markers. Have the bingo caller read about a mystery animal from a Species Card picked randomly from the hat. Once finished, players may raise thier hands to try and guess.

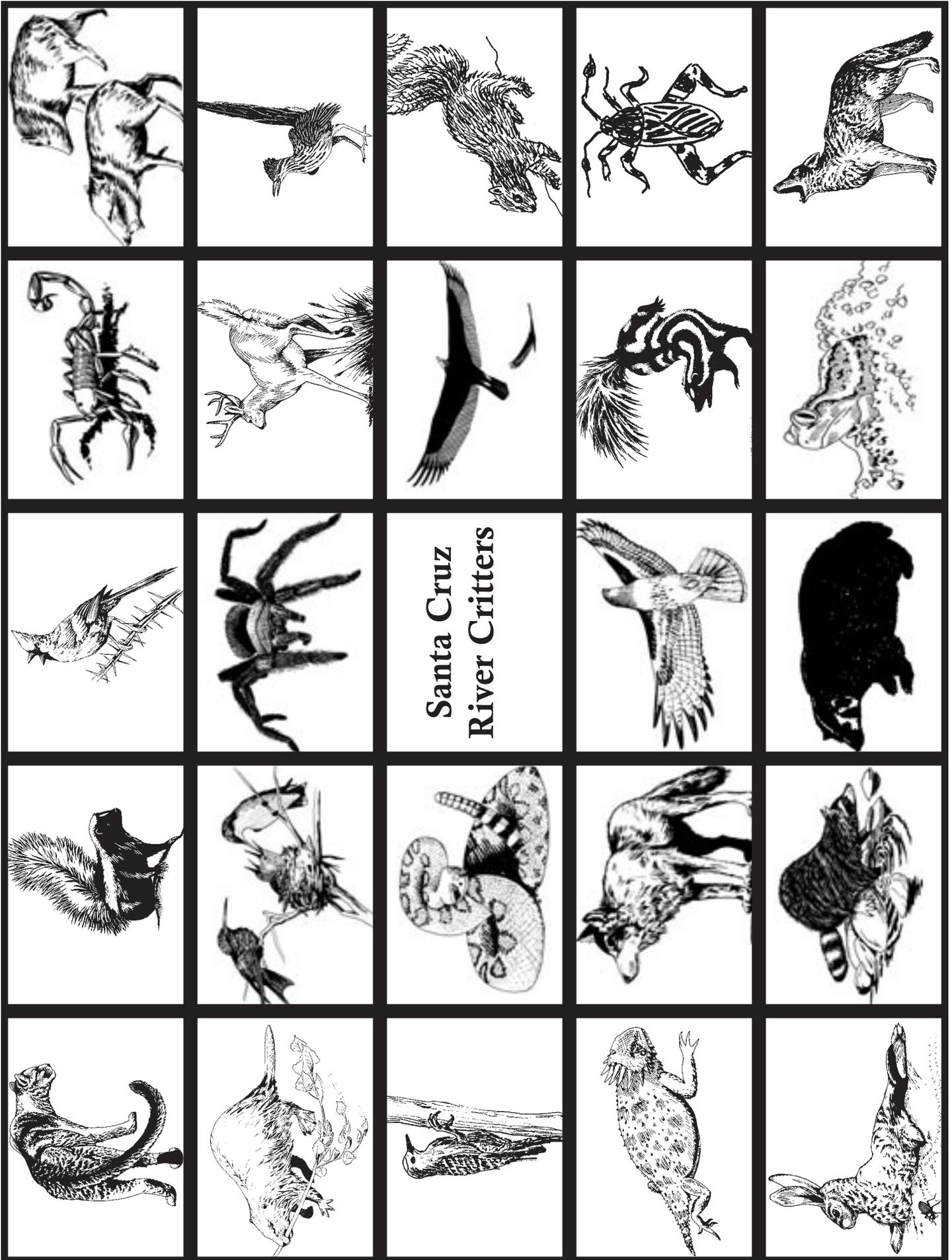
[Click here for  
the Santa Cruz  
River Bingo  
Board!](#)

[Click here  
Santa Cruz  
River Critters!](#)

[Click here for  
the Species  
Cards!](#)

*You may also substitute reading the Species Cards by using pictures of the animals cut from an extra copy of the Santa Cruz River Critters. The reader calls out the name of the animal instead of the description.*

		<b>Santa Cruz River Bingo Board</b>		



### MOUNTAIN LION

*Felix concolor*

**Description:** The largest cat in the United States - over five feet in length from the tip of his nose to the tip of his tail. It can weigh between 100 and 200 pounds. Lives mostly off deer and smaller prey.

**Habitat:** Lives mostly in the mountains but also can be seen in the desert. In Arizona, prefers rugged, heavily vegetated areas such as the Chiricahua Mountains.

**Notes:** Also known as Puma or Cougar, they are very shy and try very hard to stay hidden from humans. The lack of understanding of the mountain lion's habits, along with folklore, has made most people very afraid of this animal.

### JAVELINA

*Dicotyles tajacu*

**Description:** Weighs 35-50 lbs; very coarse salt and pepper colored hair. Looks and acts like a pig but is not. It belongs to the old world Peccary family.

**Habitat:** Found in Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico (also in South America) living in deserts and lower elevation mountains. Preferred foods are cactus, grass, shrubs, roots and tubers. Any place you find these types of plants and cactus you most likely will find javelina.

**Notes:** The javelina has very bad eyesight but a great sense of smell. Has a musk sack that lets out a very strong odor that other javelina can smell from great distances. This is how they can find their herd if they get lost.

### WHITE-TAILED DEER

*Odocoileus virginianus couesi*

**Description:** Adult deer weigh 100 pounds or less. Their hair is tan-gray with white under parts. They are named for their white tail which can only be seen when it's up. The fawns are born with spots on their cinnamon-colored coats, which aid them in hiding from predators. They lose these spots in six months.

**Habitat:** High desert mountains, with rough wooded habitat. Food sources include grass, twigs, leaves, berries, and acorns.

**Notes:** Sometimes mule deer are mistaken for white-tailed deer. When the mule deer's tail is down it is white with a brown tip. On the white-tailed deer, you only see the white when the tail is up.

### RACCOON

*Procyon lotor mexicanus*

**Description:** About the size of a small dog, it has gray fluffy hair with dark markings, a large bushy tail with rings and dark marks around the eyes making it look like a bandit. The raccoon has human-shaped paws that are used to grab objects and clean food.

**Habitat:** Found mostly in woods and forest environments. It is a very intelligent and curious animal and can be found going through trashcans and even inside houses looking for food.

**Notes:** The raccoon eats just about everything and is called an omnivore. Basically nocturnal but can also be seen in the day.

### MEXICAN GREY WOLF

*Canus lupis*

**Description:** Often mistaken for a German Shepherd dog at first glance, but has longer legs, a shorter, straighter tail, bigger ears, and a longer snout. Has a light colored coat with a lot of gray, black, white and some tan.

**Habitat:** Wolves were hunted and trapped almost to extinction. The Mexican Grey Wolf lives in the high elevation desert or lower elevation mountains. Its main source of food is white-tailed deer.

**Notes:** The wolf is a very intelligent animal and learned very quickly to prey on domestic animals - a cause of their demise. Mexican Grey Wolves were re-introduced into the White Mountains in 1999.

### COTTONTAIL RABBIT

*Sylbilagus audubonii*

**Description:** Gets its name from its fluffy white tail that looks like a cotton ball. Smaller than many rabbits, it has fur that is light grayish-tan with some white. It has clear brown eyes and moderately long ears and is the size of a medium cat.

**Habitat:** The cottontail lives in grassland, creosote brush, desert and mesquite forest. Although very common to the Arizona desert, they can be found in North Dakota, California, Montana, and Texas.

**Notes:** The cottontail defends itself from predators by running fast and darting in different directions. It will also lie very still and quiet so that predators and other threatening animals do not see it.

**STRIPED SKUNK**

*Mephitis mephitis*

**Description:** About the size of a cat. The striped skunk is distinguished by two white stripes down the back, a big bushy tail and a small head. Males are larger than females.

**Habitat:** The striped skunk can be found in most of the United States and Mexico in the desert, grassy plains and woodlands. The skunk moves slowly using ground cover as camouflage.

**Notes:** Although usually docile, when threatened, the skunk's defense is to spray a terrible odor up to 12 feet away. Four types of skunks are found in Arizona: striped, spotted, hooded and Hog-nosed. Skunks are primary carriers of rabies, dead or alive.

**SPOTTED SKUNK**

*Spilogale gracilis*

**Description:** This small nocturnal animal averages a total length of about 16 inches. The body color is black with various white spots on the face, four narrow white stripes along the front half of the back, a white blocked rump, and a tail that is half black and half white.

**Habitat:** They live in burrows or rock crevices in any location where there is lots of ground cover. Their diet consist of insects, lizards, rodents, birds' eggs and cactus fruits.

**Notes:** Their defense consists of stamping their front feet, turning around, hoisting their tail and emitting a repulsive odor. They can spray up to 12 feet away.

**BEAVER**

*Castor Canadensis*

**Description:** About the size of a medium sized dog with webbed rear feet, a tail shaped like a paddle and large front teeth. The fur is brown and thick.

**Habitat:** Found in mountains and waterways in the western United States. At one time, beavers were found throughout the United States but were depopulated by the fur trade. This species has been reintroduced to the San Pedro River.

**Notes:** In the southwestern riparian areas, the beaver was removed or extirpated both for furs and because they were an assumed agent of malaria (mosquitos breed in still water). Beavers must chew wood, or their teeth may grow too big resulting in death.

**GRAY ROCK SQUIRREL**

*Spermophilus variegatus*

**Description:** These squirrels' coats are a mixture of dark grays and yellowish-browns with lighter gray on their front quarters, dirty white underneath, and bushy tails. They are large for ground squirrels, and can be up to 20 inches long.

**Habitat:** They get their name from their favorite habitat of rock with good cover of trees & bushes into which they blend well. They live in dens which can vary from rock slopes to human dwellings.

**Notes:** They always have a lookout point near their dens on which they perch to survey the surroundings. If there is any danger they will let out a loud shrill whistle as a warning.

**COYOTE**

*Canis latrans*

**Description:** About the size of a medium sized dog, with longer legs and bigger ears, weighing 20 to 50 lbs. The fur is tan and yellow with some black and white. The winter fur is full and thicker and the summer coat is often thin and sick looking.

**Habitat:** Common throughout the United States. Adapts to open plains, forest, desert and brush areas. Prefers small game but will eat about anything.

**Notes:** Often at night, either a lone coyote or a pack can be heard howling. Coyotes are very adaptable and have survived many difficult times. In many native cultures, the coyote is known as the trickster.

**BADGER**

*Taxidea taxus*

**Description:** A carnivore about two feet long, weighing 15 to 20 pounds. It is stocky shaped, with short legs, gray fur and distinct facial markings. Its legs are powerful, and it has long claws to dig and quickly unearth mice and squirrels.

**Habitat:** Found throughout the Sonoran Desert region. They live in underground burrows and move from den to den frequently, often every day.

**Notes:** Badgers are solitary and fierce, and most other animals avoid them because they are such good fighters. They eat only at night and roam over very large areas. Baby badgers stay with their mother for three months.

**CARDINAL**

*Cardinali cardinalis*

**Description:** Up to 7 1/2" long, the male is a bright Christmas red with a black face. Both male and female have distinct head crests and red beaks. The female is pinkish-peach colored.

**Habitat:** They are usually found in the mesquite-bosque and shrubs near the Santa Cruz River. They stay in southern Arizona year-round but are harder to spot in winter along the Santa Cruz.

**Notes:** They are ground feeders. The male is protective of his mate and surroundings and is known to attack his own reflection in windows because he thinks it is an intruder.

**BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD**

*Archilochus alexandri*

**Description:** About 3" long, a small metallic-green bird with a black throat and white collar below it. With the sun shining just right, a purple patch will flash below his very long beak.

**Habitat:** These tiny birds winter in Mexico and then will travel as far north as Montana. Along the way they feed on nectar from brightly colored flowers.

**Notes:** The nest of the hummingbird is found in the fork of a branch and is only 1" high and 1-1/2" across. They can fly forward and backward, up and down. Their wings move so fast they make a humming sound, giving them their name.

**GILA WOODPECKER**

*Melanerpes uropygialis*

**Description:** This woodpecker has black and white zebra like stripes on the back and tail. Only the male has a bright red cap.

**Habitat:** They live year-round in the southwestern desert, woodland and cottonwood groves along the rivers. They eat insects, fruits of cactus, berries and the eggs of other birds.

**Notes:** The Gila Woodpecker is very common to the Santa Cruz River and can often be heard squawking.

**TURKEY VULTURE**

*Cathartes aura*

**Description:** Large black bird (25") with a bald, red head. When flying they have a wingspan of 6' and its wingtip feathers are spread apart, resembling fingers.

**Habitat:** They are found in open arid country, canyons and grasslands throughout the world. They are scavengers and feed on dead animals or carrion.

**Notes:** They soar high in the sky on thermal currents and can spot food from 2-1/2 miles away. Some Indian tribes thought the birds were messengers of the gods because of the way they soared higher and higher until they disappeared.

**RED-TAILED HAWK**

*Buteo jamaicensis*

**Description:** A large brown bird (18" long) with pale streaked breast, a dark belly band and a rusty red tail. They have a 4 foot wingspan, sharp claws or talons and a strong beak.

**Habitat:** Commonly found in open country, deserts and mountains. Often seen circling lazily in the air or perched on poles watching for their dinner which is usually mice, rabbits and other small animals.

**Notes:** They build a bulky platform nest of sticks that they defend by diving and screaming at intruders.

**GREATER ROADRUNNER**

*Geococcyx californianus*

**Description:** A large (22") ground bird with brown streaks, a shaggy crest, a very long tail, heavy beak and long blue legs.

**Habitat:** They live year-round in the Southwest deserts and mesquite shrub lands. Although they do fly, they prefer to run, hence, the name roadrunner. They are great hunters and eat the fruit of cactus, scorpions, tarantulas and snakes including rattlers.

**Notes:** We know them best from the Roadrunner cartoon with Wiley E. Coyote. Among Native Americans and Hispanics they were thought of as courageous and great hunters.

**GIANT DESERT HAIRY SCORPION**

*Hadrurus arizonensis*

**Description:** This arachnid is 5-1/2 inches long, with two pinchers and a stinger tipped "tail" that curves over its back when threatened. It is tan all over, with a yellowish back and brown hair on its legs and body.

**Habitat:** Found in the desert along dry river washes, rocky areas and in more familiar places like in desert gardens and work sheds. This scorpion lives where it can prey on small, soft-bodied insects.

**Notes:** The female will carry her young on her back for 10-15 days. The young will shed their skin several times before they reach maturity. Scorpions are venomous, and a person can get very sick if stung.

**TARANTULA**

*Anphopelma chalcodesa*

**Description:** These spiders are very hairy with long legs. Their color varies from dark brown to black with some grey. The female has hooks that look like large fangs and both male and female have a tight cluster of eight eyes.

**Habitat:** They are found in many parts of Arizona but mainly in the southwestern desert areas. They live in sandy washes and open desert areas in burrows. Their diet consists of insects and small rodents, such as mice, lizards and small snakes.

**Notes:** A tarantula's bite, although painful, is not life threatening. It will only bite if provoked. Females live 20 years and males live 8-10 years.

**WESTERN DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE**

*Crotalus atrox*

**Description:** Up to six feet long. Its name comes from the dark diamond shaped blotches on its back. Skin color is tan, yellow and very light pink. Like all rattlesnakes, the head is shaped like an arrow.

**Habitat:** Southeastern California to Arizona, New Mexico, to Arkansas and Northern Mexico. Lives in caves or under the ground. Lies on top of rocks, along trails, under bushes, and near open washes.

**Notes:** Although very dangerous, the snake is just as afraid of you as you are of it. The rattle is a warning. Be careful and leave it alone and it will leave you alone. Rattlesnake help keep rodent and rat population in balance by hunting them at night.

**HORNED LIZARD**

*Phrynosoma solare*

**Description:** This lizard has many scales and is crowned with sharp looking spines. Its color varies from tan to shades of dark brown and orange. The body is flat and close to the ground.

**Habitat:** These lizards can be found throughout Southern Arizona and into parts of Northern Mexico. They prefer rocky, sandy areas with shrub brush and succulents. They eat bugs and love ants and sometimes will eat very small snakes.

**Notes:** When threatened, they will squirt blood from their eyes. Their bodies will become very rigid when picked up.

**GIANT MESQUITE BUG**

*Tassus gigas*

**Description:** This bug is large and can be scary to look at. It has two long antennae and six legs. The color of this bug varies between black and red.

**Habitat:** The main area you find these bugs is any place where mesquite trees grow. Their diet consists mostly of the juice found in mesquite trees.

**Notes:** They can feed so much on the mesquite tree by sucking the juices that this beetle can actually kill part or sometimes the whole tree.

**SPADE-FOOTED TOAD**

*Scaphiopus couchi*

**Description:** Generally considered to be a small to medium sized toad with a white belly. The upper part of his body is yellowish green with different shades of marbling. The eardrum is clearly outside with no hump between the eyes. The body is plump and long.

**Habitat:** This toad can survive dry conditions so it is found in desert areas where mesquite and creosote grow. They live in other mammals' burrows and loose soil or sand. Their diet consists of insects and the larvae of insects.

**Notes:** Their voice is very loud like a bleating lamb and can be heard from a long way.